

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8889

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 7887

CINCEUR PASS POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO

SUBJ: HERLJEVIC ON FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

REF: BELGRADE 7790 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW WITH "POLITIKA" NOV 28, INTERIOR SECRETARY HERLJEVIC REITERATES THEMES OF CONSTANT ACTIVITY BY FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA, NEED FOR YUGOSLAV WATCHFULNESS, AND YUGOSLAVIA'S ABILITY TO THWART THESE "ENEMY" ACTIVITIES. MAY BE HIS INTENTION FOR BOTH U.S. AND USSR TO TAKE HEED, BUT ONLY FOREIGN SERVICE SINGLED OUT IS CIA. END SUMMARY.

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2. OF PARTICULAR NOTE IN SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION OF "POLITIKA" WAS ARTICLE BASED ON ANSWERS PROVIDED BY FEDERAL INTERIOR SECRETARY FRANJO HERLJEVIC "TOGETHER WITH HIS ASSOCIATES" TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE NEWSPAPER. HERLJEVIC MAINTAINS THAT ACTIVITIES BY FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HAVE NEVER CEASED AND "THAT THEY ARE CAREFULLY WATCHING US, THAT THEY ARE ACTING, DEVELOPING THEIR ACTIVITIES WHICH IS ALWAYS DIRECTED TO A DEFINITE PURPOSE". HE STATES "THEY" OFTEN CLAIM "THEY" WANT TO BE ON YUGOSLAV TERRITORY TO PROTECT YUGOSLAV INTERESTS BECAUSE PRESERVATION OF YUGOSLAV HOMOGENEITY, UNITY, INDEPENDENCE, NONALIGNMENT IS IN "THEIR" INTEREST.

3. HERLJEVIC HIGHLIGHTED THE YEARS 1945, 1947, 1948, 1953, AND 1971 AS HAVING BEEN TIMES OF PARTICULAR INTENSE EFFORTS. HE CITED YUGOSLAVIA'S STRATEGIC POSITION AND ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEM WHICH "IS BECOMING EXTREMELY INTERESTING TO MANY PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD" AS THE REASONS FOR THE OUTSIDERS' INTEREST. REGARDING THE LATTER, HE SAID, "THIS, OF COURSE, DOES NOT PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE CIRCLES AND FORCES IN THE WORLD THAT WANT TO PRESERVE THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS OF EXPLOITATION AND DOMINATION."

4. OF SPECIFIC INTEREST, HE MAINTAINED, ARE LCY ACTIVITIES, YUGOSLAV FOREIGN POLICY, INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NATIONALITIES, AND THE YUGOSLAV ARMED FORCES. "THEY" SPECULATE AND CALCULATE "ABOUT WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO US IN THE NEAR AND DISTANT FUTURE". SOME, SAID HERLJEVIC, "SPREAD RUMORS THAT WE ARE PROCEEDING ALONG A FIRM HAND COURSE, OTHERS SAY THAT WE ARE TOO LAX WHILE BOTH LAUNCH THE THESIS THAT A CRISIS IS AHEAD IN OUR COUNTRY."

5. TO ILLUSTRATE THE DIFFUSE METHODS WITH WHICH "THEY ARE COLLECTING DATA", HERLJEVIC MENTIONED A REQUEST MADE BY A (UNNAMED) SCIENTIFIC TEAM TO STUDY IRISES WHICH "INVESTIGATED SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY DIFFERENT", ANOTHER REQUEST CONCERNING RESEARCH ON GEO-MAGNETISM IN YUGOSLAVIA AND YET ANOTHER REQUEST REGARDING A SEARCH FOR THE "LOVELIEST CONFIDENTIAL

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GROTTO".

6. HE MENTIONED THAT 19 PERSONS WERE SENTENCED FOR ESPIONAGE LAST YEAR WHILE INVESTIGATION IS STILL UNDER WAY AGAINST OTHERS. IN ADDITION, "MANY ILL-INTENTIONED PERSONS WITH FOREIGN PASSPORTS HAVE BEEN DENIED HOSPITALITY IN OUR COUNTRY." IN LAST THREE YEARS ABOUT 100 "EMIGRANTS" INVOLVED IN TERRORIST OR SUBVERSIVE-PROPAGANDA

ACTIVITIES WERE INTERCEPTED AND CAUGHT. ON ONE RECENT
OCCASION, HE SAID, "ABOUT 45 KILOGRAMS OF DESTRUCTIVE
PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES WERE FOUND (AS WERE) NUMEROUS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 7887

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

DEFENSIVE, INFLAMABLE HAND BOMBS AND OTHER SUBVERSIVE
MATERIAL COMING FROM A MILITARY WAREHOUSE OF TROOPS
STATIONED IN WESTERN EUROPE (BEGIN UNDERLINE) WHERE THIS WAS
ALLEGEDLY STOLEN." (END UNDERLINE) (OUR EMPHASIS)
84?7. HE WAS ASKED ABOUT "THE EFFECT OF CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE
SERVICES...FOR INSTANCE OF THE CIA," AND RESPONDED,
"THEY HAVE LAUNCHED, AND OUR PUBLIC HAS RATHER INDIS-
CRIMINATELY ADOPTED, THE TALE THAT THEY HAVE A MAGIC
WAND IN THEIR HANDS AND THAT GOVERNMENTS, SYSTEMS,
ECONOMIES, AND FINANCES ARE RUINED WHENEVER THEY APPEAR."
HE FIRMLY REJECTS IDEA THAT THIS COULD HAPPEN IN

YUGOSLAVIA.

8. CONCLUDING, HERLJEVIC STATED THAT "THANKS TO THE
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WIDESPREAD SYSTEM OF SOCIAL SELF-PROTECTION, THE
PATRIOTISM AND ALLEGIANCE OF OUR CITIZENS TO THEIR
COUNTRY, WE KNOW ABOUT THEM MORE THAN THEY PRESUMED AND
THEY PERHAPS EVEN KNOW THAT WE ARE COGNIZANT OF THIS."

9. COMMENT: WHILE HERLJEVIC'S COMMENTS CAN BE SEEN AS
DIRECTED BOTH AT EAST AND WEST, WE BELIEVE THAT THE
EMPHASIS IS SOMEWHAT HEAVIER ON TRYING TO DISCREDIT AND WARN
AGAINST WESTERN (MAINLY U.S.) INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.
IN ADDITION TO POINTS MENTIONED ABOVE, HERLJEVIC ALSO
REFERRED TO SUPPORT FOR CHETNIK/USTASHI GROUPS, TO
"MOST REACTIONARY FORCES" SUPPORTING EMIGRE GROUPS AND
EMIGRE PRESS AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY PROMOTED BY "FASCIST
EMIGRANTS." ALL OF THESE POINTS ARE PART OF YUGOSLAV
LITANY OF CHARGES AGAINST WEST. HERLJEVIC'S REFERENCE TO
INTELLIGENCE SERVICE'S TIES WITH "DEFECTORS" ON OTHER
HAND PROBABLY REFERS TO SOVIET UNION AND REFERENCE TO
SUPPORT GIVEN TO "NATIONALISTS, LIBERALS, COMINFORMISTS
AND UNITARISTS" IS DIRECTED TO BOTH SOVIETS AND WEST,
AS IS REFERENCE TO BOTH SIDES SAYING A CRISIS AWAITS
YUGOSLAVIA. MENTION OF THE EXTREME INTEREST IN THE
YUGOSLAV SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
PROBABLY REFERS TO FACT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT KEEN ON
YUGOSLAV SELF-MANAGEMENT BECOMING AN ACCEPTABLE SYSTEM IN
THIRD WORLD NATIONS. HERLJEVIC'S WARNING THAT RESEARCH
ACTIVITIES MAY BE CONNECTED WITH FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE
GATHERING IS MOST DISTURBING. THIS SEEMS TO BE PART OF
CAMPAIGN WE HAVE NOTICED TO CONTROL/RESTRICT CONTACTS
WITH CERTAIN FOREIGNERS, PARTICULARLY IN SCIENTIFIC/
TECHNICAL FIELDS.

10. PUBLICATION OF THE INTERVIEW AT THE SAME TIME THE
PRESIDENCY REPORT (REFTEL) WITH ITS SUBSTANTIVE INTERNAL
SECURITY SECTION WAS RELEASED MAY REVEAL A CONTINUING
TIGHTENING WITHIN THIS SOCIETY -- A DIRECTION WHICH
HERLJEVIC SURELY SUPPORTS.
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